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nese oxide, a manganese halide, manganese carbonate, manganese nitrate, a manganese-containing salt, manganese nitride, manganese metal, an organo-manganese compound or a manganese-containing aluminum alloy.

10. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein said doping is incorporated in a reducing atmosphere or an oxygen-free atmosphere.

11. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein said phosphor is processed to reduce the surface's sensitivity to water in a fluorescent lamp.

12. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein said phosphor is processed by heating in an atmosphere of more than 90% nitrogen.

13. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein said phosphor is processed by heating in an atmosphere wherein gas pressure is more than 1 atmosphere.

14. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein said phosphor is processed at temperature of at least 1500° C.

15. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein said phosphor is processed at temperature above 1700° C.

16. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein said surface of said phosphor is post-processed in a reactive solution or vapor.

17. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein said surface of said phosphor is processed in an acidic solution, most preferably phosphoric acid.

18. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1, wherein said phosphor has a CIE coordinate of about $X=0.60\pm0.05$ and $Y=0.37\pm0.05$.

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19. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein said phosphor blend is combined with at least one additional phosphor to create another color of light.

20. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein said phosphor blend does not include rare earths.

21. A method of making a fluorescent lamp, comprising the steps of:

heating $Al_{(1-x)}M_xN$ powder under flowing nitrogen gas; adding a source of Mn, thereby producing an $Al_{(1-x)}M_xN:Mn$ phosphor;

providing a glass envelope;

providing mercury vapor, an inert gas, and said $Al_{(1-x)}M_xN:Mn$ phosphor within said glass envelope, and

providing at least two electrodes connected to said glass envelope to produce the fluorescent lamp.

22. The method of making a fluorescent lamp of claim 21 wherein said $Al_{(1-x)}M_xN$ is doped with manganese.

23. The method of making a fluorescent lamp of claim 21 wherein said powder is deposited onto the surface of the glass envelope.

24. The method of making a fluorescent lamp of claim 21 wherein said phosphor is post-processed by heating in air or oxygen at a temperature above room temperature, preferably above 500° C.

25. The method of making a fluorescent lamp of claim 21 wherein said phosphor is combined with at least one additional phosphor to create another color of light.

26. The method of making a fluorescent lamp of claim 21 wherein the fluorescent lamp does not include rare earths.

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